

Application No. 10/017,530
Amendment dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 79469

REMARKS

The present amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination and a three-month Extension of Time request. The above-identified application was subject to a final rejection dated March 15, 2004 which the present Amendment and Remarks address.

Claims 1-12 were present for examination and all claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 based primarily on Leshner U.S. Patent No. 3,917,911 and Kohen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,823,380. By the present Amendment claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended, claims 10-12 have been canceled and claims 13-19 have been added.

In a prior Amendment dated February 24, 2004, applicant argued that there is no suggestion in the art to combine the references as the Examiner has done and that the rejection should be withdrawn. The Examiner has stated in the March 15, 2004 rejection that the combination of references was proper, because both Leshner and Kohen et al., try to solve the same purpose of providing security. Thus, the only suggestion to combine the references is that they each try to solve security problems. Applicant asserts that the fact that both references relate to the same broadly defined category is not sufficient to show suggestion or motivation to combine the references.

Leshner relates to a system for keeping strangers out of a secure area and permitting selected (allowed) people to enter the area by control of a barrier lock. On the other hand, Kohen et al. relates only to electronic voice modification to disguise a speaker's voice. Leshner does not suggest that its secure area protection should or could be combined with any voice modification

or other speaker disguising system. Similarly, Kohen does not suggest its use for any purposes other than to disguise voices. Thus, one cited reference deals with access to a secure area while the other deals with disguising voices. Nothing about the two areas of technology suggests their combination.

Applicants' claim 1, in contrast, specifically recites the combination of secure area protection and user voice modification to provide multiple benefits not suggested by Lesher or Kohen et al. Applicant asserts that more must be shown by the Examiner to support his position that there is suggestion or motivation to combine the references in a proper 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection.

Even if Lesher and Kohen et al., are combined they still do not render claim 1 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103. As set forth in MPEP 2142, in order to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the reference (or combined references) must teach or suggest all claim limitations. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

a voice modification system available to said second voice communication device whereby a person at said second communication device when answering a call from said first voice communication device can modify the audio characteristics of an oral response and grant authorization to enter the secured area.

Nothing in the combined references teaches or suggest the ability when answering a call at a second voice communication device, to modify the characteristics of an oral response and also grant authorization to enter. In view of the foregoing, applicant asserts that claim 1 and all remaining claims 2-9 and 13-19 which depend therefrom are allowable.

In addition to the above, claim 14 states that the voice modification system is disposed at the communication system which interconnects the first and second communication devices. No such

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placement of a voice modification system is suggested by the combination of the references. Claim 15 states that the second voice communication unit comprises apparatus for controlling the voice modification unit which is located at the communication system. No such "remote" control of a voice modification system is suggested by any known reference or combination.

Claim 16 states that the second voice communication unit comprises apparatus for pre-programming the voice modification system to automatically modify audio characteristics. No such second voice communication unit is suggested by the references or their combination. Further, claim 17 states that the voice modification system (of claim 16) is preprogrammed to play a recorded announcement. No such voice modification system is suggested by any combination of the references.

In claim 18 the voice modification system (of claim 16) is preprogrammed to alter a user's voice. No such preprogramming is suggested by the combined references. Finally, claim 19 states that the second voice communication device (of claim 1) comprises apparatus under user control, for selectively playing a prerecorded announcement or altering the voice of the user. No user selection of disguised voice or recorded announcement is suggested by the combined references.

Applicant hereby requests that all claims 1-9 and 13-19 be allowed as they now stand.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

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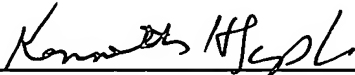
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even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully requested,

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